

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

*Sub A1>* 1. A rod coupling, comprising:

5        a tubular housing having a first box end and a second box end, the tubular housing having an interior surface defining a bore extending along the tubular housing from the first box end to the second box end, the tubular housing having an exterior surface;

10        plural openings extending transversely through the housing from the interior surface to the exterior surface; and

15        a coating on the exterior surface of the tubular housing and covering the plural openings.

2.        The rod coupling of claim 1 in which the coating extends into the openings.

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3.        The rod coupling of claim 1 in which the coating extends through the openings to form knobs inside the tubular housing.

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4.        The rod coupling of claim 1 in which the openings taper from the exterior surface towards the interior surface.

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5.        The rod coupling of claim 1 in which the openings are distributed uniformly around the tubular housing.

6.        The rod coupling of claim 1 in which the openings are distributed in plural rows.

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*Sub A2>* 7. A rod string formed of plural rods connected by plural rod couplings, each rod coupling comprising:

a tubular housing having a first box end and a second box end, the tubular housing having an interior surface defining a bore extending along the tubular housing from the first box end to the second box end, the tubular housing having an exterior surface;

5           plural openings extending transversely through the housing from the interior surface to the exterior surface; and

              a coating on the exterior surface of the tubular housing and covering the plural openings.

10       8.     The rod string of claim 7 in which the openings taper from the exterior surface towards the interior surface.

9.     The rod string of claim 7 in which the openings are distributed uniformly around the tubular housing.

15       10.    The rod string of claim 7 in which the openings are distributed in plural rows.

11.    The rod string of claim 7 in which the coating extends into the openings.

20       12.    The rod string of claim 7 in which the coating extends through the openings to form knobs inside the tubular housing.